Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1 -75 (Cancelled)

76. (Currently amended) A valve prosthetic device configured for cardiac implantation within or adjacent a heart valve annulus, comprising:

a support stent structure, the support stent comprising an inlet portion and an outlet portion, wherein the stent inlet portion has a first diameter, the stent outlet portion has a second diameter, and the first diameter is larger than the second diameter, wherein the stent support structure has an upstream end and a downstream end, the stent support structure comprises a generally continuous stent structure from the upstream end to the downstream end, wherein the generally continuous stent structure is generally free of sharp longitudinal angles along the length of the generally continuous stent structure; and

a one-way valve assembly comprising an inlet end and an outlet end, the valve assembly comprising pliant material attached to the support stent structure, the one-way valve assembly positioned within the support stent structure to permit fluid flow from the stent inlet portion to the stent outlet portion through the one-way valve assembly, and to generally prevent substantial fluid flow from the stent outlet portion to the stent inlet portion through the one-way valve assembly, whereby the stent inlet portion is upstream of the stent outlet portion with respect to fluid flowing through the one-way valve, and wherein the outlet end of the one-way valve assembly, when the one-way valve is in an open configuration, is upstream of the stent support structure downstream end with respect to fluid flowing through the one-way valve;

wherein the valve assembly inlet end is positioned within the stent inlet portion of the support stent structure.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously presented) The valve prosthetic device of claim 76, wherein the support stent outlet portion is downstream of the valve assembly outlet end.

80. (Currently amended) The valve prosthetic device of claim 79, wherein the valve assembly has an open condition and a closed condition, the valve assembly outlet end has an open outlet diameter, the support stent portion adjacent the valve assembly outlet end has an outlet end adjacent stent portion diameter, and the outlet end adjacent support stent portion diameter is larger than the valve assembly ~~outlet~~ open outlet diameter.

81. (Currently amended) The valve prosthetic device of claim 80, wherein the valve assembly inlet end has an open inlet diameter, the support stent portion adjacent the valve assembly inlet end has an inlet end adjacent stent portion diameter, and the inlet end adjacent support stent portion diameter is larger than the valve assembly inlet open diameter, and the device is configured so that, when the valve assembly is in the open position, an artificial sinus is formed between the valve assembly and the adjacent stent portion.

82. (Previously presented) The valve prosthetic device of claim 76, wherein the support stent comprises an expandable frame comprising biocompatible material, and wherein the valve assembly comprises biological tissue.

83. (Previously presented) A valve prosthetic device for cardiac implantation, comprising:

a valve assembly comprising an inlet end and an outlet end, the valve assembly comprising a one-way valve assembly configured to permit fluid flow from the valve assembly inlet end to the valve assembly outlet end, and to generally prevent substantial fluid flow from the valve assembly outlet end to the valve assembly inlet end, whereby the valve assembly outlet end is downstream of the valve assembly inlet end; and a support stent structure, the support stent comprising a stent first portion having a first diameter and a stent second portion having a second diameter, wherein the first diameter is larger than the second diameter;

wherein the valve assembly inlet end is secured to the stent first portion with the one-way valve assembly configured to permit fluid flow from the stent first portion to the stent second portion via the one-way valve assembly and to generally prevent substantial fluid flow from the stent second portion to the stent second portion via the one-way valve assembly, and whereby the second portion of the support stent is downstream of the valve assembly inlet end with respect to fluid flowing through the one-way valve.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Previously presented) The valve assembly of claim 83, wherein the first portion of the support stent comprises an inlet end of the support stent.

86. (Previously presented) The valve assembly of claim 83, wherein the valve assembly comprises a tricuspid configuration.

87. (Previously presented) The valve assembly of claim 83, wherein the valve assembly is secured to the support stent via stitching.

88. (Currently amended) The valve assembly of claim 83, wherein the valve assembly comprises leaflets, and wherein when flow is allowed to pass through the valve assembly from the inlet end to the outlet end, the valve assembly is kept in an open position, wherein a reverse flow is prevented as the leaflets ~~collapsible slack portions of the valve assembly~~ collapse inwardly providing blockage to the reverse flow, and wherein the device is configured so that retrograde flow will be altered from laminar flow and directed towards the leaflets to effect closing.

89. (Previously presented) The valve assembly of claim 83, wherein the support stent comprises an expandable metallic frame, and wherein the valve assembly comprises pericardial tissue.

90. (Withdrawn) The valve assembly of claim 83, wherein the support stent further comprises a stent third portion having a third diameter, wherein the third diameter is different from the first diameter.

91. (Withdrawn) The valve assembly of claim 90, wherein the stent third portion is upstream of the stent first portion with respect to fluid flowing through the one-way valve.

92. (Withdrawn) The valve assembly of claim 91, wherein the third diameter is smaller than the first diameter.

93. (Currently amended) A valve prosthetic device for cardiac implantation, comprising:

a support stent structure comprising a stent first portion having a stent first portion diameter, the support stent structure having a stent second portion having a stent second portion diameter, the support stent structure having a stent inlet end and a stent outlet end, wherein the stent second portion is at or adjacent the stent outlet end, the stent first portion is positioned between the stent inlet end and the stent second portion, and the stent first portion diameter is greater than the stent second portion diameter, and wherein the support stent structure comprises at least one generally continuous and generally rigid support beam extending generally longitudinally between and at least partially through both the stent first portion and the stent second portion; and

a one-way valve assembly comprising a valve inlet end and a valve outlet end, wherein the one-way valve assembly is configured to permit fluid flow from the valve inlet end to the valve outlet end, and to generally prevent substantial fluid flow from the valve outlet end to the valve inlet end, wherein the one-way valve assembly is positioned within the support stent structure with the valve inlet end positioned within the stent first portion, and with the valve inlet end directed toward the stent inlet end and with the valve outlet end directed toward the stent outlet end when the one-way valve assembly is in an open configuration, whereby the one-way valve assembly permits fluid to flow from the stent first portion to the stent second portion via the one-way valve assembly, and the one-way valve assembly generally prevents substantial fluid flow with the one-way valve assembly from the stent second portion to the stent first portion.

94. (Previously presented) The valve prosthetic device of claim 93, wherein most of the one-way valve assembly is positioned within the stent first portion.

95. (Previously presented) The valve prosthetic device of claim 94, wherein substantially all of the one-way valve assembly is positioned within the stent first portion.

96. (Previously presented) The valve prosthetic device of claim 93, wherein the support stent structure is configured to assume a crimped configuration suitable for delivery through a body lumen, and further configured to assume a deployed configuration wherein the support stent structure is expanded into contact with selected tissue within a desired deployment site in a patient's body.

97. (Previously presented) The valve assembly of claim 93, wherein the support stent structure comprises an expandable metallic frame

98. (Previously presented) The valve prosthetic device of claim 93, wherein the one-way valve assembly comprises compliant material, and at least a portion of the compliant material is secured to the stent inlet end to thereby form the valve inlet end.

99. (New) The valve assembly of claim 76, wherein the support stent comprises at least one generally continuous and generally rigid support beam extending generally longitudinally between and at least partially through both the inlet portion and the outlet portion.